

Historic District Residents Association
Board of Directors Meeting
May 20, 2019 5 p.m.
Public Library Conference Room, 400 Johnson St.

Call to order by George Evans, President@ 5:05 pm

Present: George Evans, Paula Jessup, Kate Rosenstrauch, Rob Overman, Rick Prill, Kelly Sorenson, Val Ruland-Schwartz , Bridget Crawford (excused until :5:30 p m), Rebecca Lucas (6:10 p m)

Excused:Sheila Batten

Absent: Wayne Mills

No Quorum until arrival of arrival of BC so proceeded with new business as no votes could be taken until such time

Old Business

- GE reviewed his conversation with John Wood regarding HPC decisions and applications, especially due to hurricane related problems, and possibility of guideline revisions. JW explained that historic district operations rely on federal, state and local law in creating guidelines. JW stressed the importance of maintaining integrity of the process and enforcement. Beaufort and Washington have similar districts and storm related problems. This is being looked at in the next few months, with the goal of developing revised guidelines in some areas. He might be able to speak to the group in January. JW said that uniform rules for all historic houses such as flood vents are difficult because what is appropriate depends on age of house. In general, homeowners would like more specific guidelines. HPCs are not supposed to consider costs to homeowners. JW confirmed that trees and significant parts of landscape are protected. GE reminded that HDRA's biggest objective of the year is to improve communication between homeowners and city officials about storm related problems, and consideration of revisions to HPC guidelines. We discussed bringing JW in earlier, with questions from the historic district submitted in advance, possibly at a special meeting in August. GE will reach out to him and try to establish a date.
- VRS reviewed results of member survey about hurricane recovery. Decision was made to send results to HDRA membership with a follow-up survey.
- RP presented raft issues for upcoming race 6/22. Will has resigned from the project and RP has stepped up! Next meeting is Wednesday, April 24 to get the project back on track. They need one more rower and a few alternates. Questions arose about registration and GE inquired as to if any more actions were needed.
- KS provided an update regarding social committee activities/ costs/logistics/ food/etc. for Blessing of the Fleet Raft Race Thursday (6/20) dinner social at Farmer's Market. Additional details to follow and VRS will communicate to membership.
- RP had no update on the city survey and is unaware of any feedback available at this time.
- GE informed the Board that currently the next membership meeting is scheduled for the first week of July. Due to the weekend of July 4 which could extend through July 8 for those who are taking a long weekend that many members could be out of town. GE suggested that we move the meeting into August, possibly 8/5/2019. Since GE cannot confirm at this time if John Woods can come to that meeting, he requested suggestions for other

topics/speakers. RP suggested someone from the Shriners come to discuss the state of the Shriner building on Broad Street as they are our neighbors. There seems to be no activity at the badly damaged site. RL suggested we bring in someone from Parks and Rec for an update on bike trails etc. VRS suggested a review of the Coastal Resiliency Summit in June in Havelock that she and other HDRA members are attending . GE will follow up on these suggestions.

New Business

Review of Committee Reports

- Appearance PJ
 - PJ is waiting to hear back from Foster Hughes regarding urns and removal of pots.. PJ will follow up.
 - GE reviewed CleanSweep held on April 27. There were about 20 at breakfast and 25 volunteers so the area cleaned up was a bit smaller than usual. We discussed changing the breakfast at Captain Rattys' to Baker's Kitchen so people could individually order whatever they wanted instead of a set price for a full breakfast.
 - GE and PJ will collaborate on the details and plan the next clean sweep.
 - RL suggested that we possibly try to implement a motivation program for residents to pick up litter more regularly. This concept was well received and extensively discussed. The Board will brainstorm on a "litter campaign".
- Business Outreach (SB excused)
 - GE reviewed her report
 - VRS will send out communications of any events
- Communications VRS
 - VRS reviewed her report
 - VRS will send out reminders requesting RSVPs for upcoming events
 - Board members commented on how helpful the weekly emails that VRS distributes comprehensively covering New Bern activities/events are to our members. The Board expressed recognition and appreciation of all of the great efforts she makes in all communications.
- Community Outreach WM absent
 - No review
- Membership KR
 - KR gave a review of her report
 - KR presented new membership data
 - KR provided the Board with a draft survey extracted from a national organization that creates membership surveys. She asked for feedback on content as well as distribution channels. A board discussion ensued. KR will incorporate endorsed survey suggestions accordingly. The Board decided that optimal distribution would include both the provision of hardcopies at the next meeting as well as a PDF form that VRS could email to membership that members could fill-in and return. VRS and KR will collaborate to make it happen!
- Government Outreach RP
 - No updates to his report
- Social KS
 - KS reviewed her report
 - "Rockin on Change" was under budget

- KS was congratulated on all hard work she and her committee had put into the event and how successful the event was! The Board agreed that “Rockin on Change” Rocked!
 - KS requested new ideas for events. Ideas presented and discussed included:
 - Community yard sale- more participants, more buyers
 - Dog washing event —possible fund raiser for an animal charity
 - Ideas for more family friendly/kid friendly events; possibly that could be coordinated with the dog washing activity
 - Fourth of July children’s Bike Parade; Decorate bike, dog, stroller etc..This could also be a great event for grandchildren to be included if they’re visiting New Bern for the holiday
 - “Make a Bouquet” get together ...great social for all who like to give or receive flowers !
- Treasurer Report RL
 - Nothing to add to the report; GE indicated that monies, at this time, seem adequate
 - KR inquired to GE as to if the annual review of finances has been performed yet. This review requires two members to review and certify the accuracy of the books and is in the bylaws as an annual requirement. GE will follow up to ensure that it is completed. KR suggested names of members who have acted in this capacity before.

Additional New Business

- KR proposed a possible reduction in dues for senior members as we have lost members.
 - The board discussed different options and KR will take them all into consideration as well as also polling senior members for community input.
 - GE inquired as to if we should reconsider what the dollar amount is for dues at this time and as to if residential data has changed in recent years. KR reported that data has remained stable and sees no need to reconsider what the dollar amount is for standard membership.

Next Board meeting is 6/24/2019. The Library is not available so the place is to be determined.

RP motioned for adjournment of meeting, KS seconded. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10.